

# Welcome to TEMPLE TERRACE, FLORIDA



# THE CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE



The City of Temple Terrace affords an unparalleled standard of living for its 26,000+ residents, marrying a small-town feel with urban amenities.

The City was incorporated on May 28, 1925. George Young, a landscape architect, civil engineer and town planner, worked with golf course architect Tom Bendelow and citrus grove developer D. Collins Gillett to design the City's master plan. Gillett was elected as Temple Terrace's first mayor after the incorporation, for which he and Maud Fowler led the charge.

In the years before officially becoming a City, Temple Terrace was home to the largest orange grove in the world, with 5,000 acres planted in the area. Temple Terrace was named for the Temple Orange, aka as a tangor – a cross between the tangerine and the common sweet orange. As the area established, individuals were encouraged to invest in the citrus grove to offset the cost of home ownership.

Temple Terrace will celebrate its Centennial in 2025. Planning already has begun by staff as well as a Council-appointed Centennial Committee tasked with coordinating City and community efforts to commemorate this historic occasion.



#### A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Originally known as Tampa's most beautiful suburb, Temple Terrace boasts beautiful parks with picturesque views of the Hillsborough River, which cascades past pristine patches of cypress and pine trees and flows under busy public thoroughfares. The River is brimming with wildlife and is an avian haven.

Upstream, the Hillsborough is a narrow, winding body of water, well-suited to canoe and kayak exploration. Downstream, it is a broad and straighter passage used by power boaters, water-skiers, wake-boarders and jet-skiers.

There is good fishing to be had throughout, from casting nymph flies in the upper narrows to employing Carolinarigging for monster bass by the dam. Along its banks, one can watch an alligator sit motionless, waiting for prey, witness a perfect formation of baby ducks shepherded by their mother, or a see a hawk diving only to fly off clutching a wriggling bluegill.

In addition to its scenic river vistas, Temple Terrace is known for its plush landscape of trees, especially its many varieties of oaks. The City is replete with grand oaks, laurel oaks and water oaks, as well as many other species, including crape myrtle, southern magnolia, redbud, sweet gum, sabal palm, slash pine and bald cypress.



In 2008, Temple Terrace was named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. We are now in our 11th year of recognition.

#### **CITY AMENITIES**

The City also boasts its own a public library, now affiliated with the Hillsborough Council Public Library Cooperative, and a senior center, as well as a modern recreation complex that includes a state-of-the-art fitness center, an aquatics center with five pools, a clay court tennis center and more.

In addition to providing service at these facilities, the Leisure Services staff host a variety of family friendly events – some dating back decades - for residents and visitors throughout the year, including the Independence Day parade and fireworks celebration, the Fall Festival and Winter Wonderland, among others. In 2022, the City held its first ever Chalk Festival which is slated to become a yearly tradition.

Temple Terrace also is home to many active community

organizations, including the Temple Terrace Arts Council, the Rotary Club, Women's and Junior Women's Clubs and more. Many of these routinely partner with the City to host annual events like BrewFest and the Temple Terrace Arts & Crafts Festival.

The historic Golf & Country Club still serves as the backbone of the community and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service - the only 18-hole golf course in the state of Florida with that distinction.



#### MULTI MODAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

You'll see golf carts not only on the course, but on our neighborhood streets. That's because Temple Terrace was the first city in Florida designated as a Multi Modal Transportation District by the state of Florida, meaning that as a City, we are committed to relying less on automobiles and encouraging residents and visitors to explore alternative means of transportation, including walking, bicycles, golf carts, scooters and public transport.

#### **PUBLIC ART**

Temple Terrace has made a commitment to Public Art in recent years and has worked with the local Arts Council on projects that include an award-winning streetscape that involved hundreds of City residents, eight different murals commissioned by regional artists at two of the City's main intersections and hand painted panoramas at a number of City facilities.



# Temple Terrace At a Glance

Population: 26,690

Median Age: 33.1

- 47.3 Age Dependency Ratio
- 18.9 Old Age Dependency Ratio
- 28.4 Child Dependency Ratio

Median Household Income: \$56,209

Median Home Value: \$229,800

# Race/Ethnicity

- White 67.4%
- African American or Black 19.68%
- Two or more races 5.93%

Other – 2.6%

#### **Educational Attainment:**

- 91.4% High School or Higher
- 42.7% Bachelor's degree or higher

Poverty Rate: 15.77%

\* Age dependency ratio is the ratio of dependents--people younger than 15 or older than 64--to the working-age population--those ages 15-64. Data are shown as the proportion of dependents per 100 working-age population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

#### DINE AND SHOP HERE

The City is a bastion of independently owned ethnic restaurants ranging from Middle Eastern to Eastern European to South American fare and nearly everything in between. There also are chain and mom and pop coffee shops, groceries and other retail establishments. And the offerings keep expanding as the City focuses its efforts on a growing Redevelopment area that recently has added luxury apartments and other amenities with more still to come.

#### **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

The City of Temple Terrace is a rising star in the Tampa Bay region. The entire Bay area offers abundant opportunities for individuals looking for career opportunities and for companies looking to build and /or expand. The regional market routinely leads the state in job creation and demand.

As part of the City's efforts to improve quality of life and strengthen the economic environment, Temple Terrace maintains a community redevelopment agency that, when established, focused on 20 prime acres of City-owned

property. Today, much of this land has been developed or is an active site of construction. Luxury apartments have recently been added along with other retail and culinary establishments with more still to come. The long-term vision is to create a vibrant downtown that will be valued by its citizens for generations to come.

#### **CLOSE TO EVERYTHING**

Temple Terrace also offers easy access to institutions of higher learning including USF and Florida College. Many faculty and staff of these schools reside in the City and contribute to Temple Terrace boasting one of the most highly educated populations in the state.

Conveniently situated near major highways, such attractions as the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), Busch Gardens and the Tampa Zoo at Lowry Park are just minutes away, as is downtown Tampa.



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Temple Terrace is, by Charter, a City Manager / Council form of government. Our elected officials champion the interests of residents and businesses in the area. City Council consists of Mayor Andy Ross, Vice Mayor James Chambers, and Council Members Gil Schisler, Alison Fernandez and Meredith Abel.

City Manager Carlos Baia and the more than 200 dedicated City employees support the City's mission to "deliver professional services to our community while promoting, protecting, and preserving the heritage, natural resources, and quality of life for future generations of our amazing city."

#### **CITY DEPARTMENTS**

#### Code

The Code Compliance Department is responsible for the enforcement of non-criminal city ordinances, codes and regulations. The unit strives to prevent violations by increasing citizen awareness of neighborhood standards and expectations within Temple Terrace.

# Community Development

The Community Development Department is responsible for administering, directing, coordinating and supervising land development regulation functions and operations involving redevelopment planning, general commercial site planning, zoning reviews, permitting, inspections, plans review, annexations, geographical information systems, and mapping. The department's work is divided into three areas:

- Planning and Development
- Building and Zoning

#### **Executive**

The City Manager is responsible for administering the policies established by the City Council and overseeing the city's day-to-day operations.

Temple Terrace is a full-service municipality, and the city manager administers the delivery of high-quality services with the efficient staffs of the Marketing and Communications and Business Relations Offices as well as nine departments.

#### Finance

- Administration The Finance Administration Department is responsible for financial planning, budget, debt management, investments, accounting, purchasing, and payroll.
- **Utility Billing** The Customer Service Department handles business licensing, opens utility accounts, and manages utility account billing.

#### Fire

The Temple Terrace Fire Department is committed to the highest standards of excellence in fire service. Two major achievements are a testiment to this commitment.

The first is the department's Class 1 rating. This fire protection classification helps lower the insurance premiums paid by residents and local business owners. The ISO rating is an



important incentive for economic development as the City attracts new businesses and oversees the expansion of existing businesses. This ISO Class 1 rating puts our department in the top 1 percent of fire departments across the country.

Second, the department was awarded Accredited Agency status in 2006 by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), a program of the Virginia-based Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. Accreditation assures the public that the Fire Department has a specific mission, continually evaluates its services, encourages ongoing improvement through a self-assessment process, develops methods to address deficiencies and builds on organizational successes.

#### **Human Resources**

The mission of Human Resources is to:

- Meet the challenges of the changing workplace environment
- Adhere to and promote the principles of equal opportunity and social equity through effective recruitment
- Train and develop programs in conjunction with innovating reward and motivational programs
- Develop a highly qualified, productive and responsive workforce equipped with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to meet and adapt to the present and future needs of Temple Terrace

# **Information Technology**

The Information Technology Department is an internal service department which administers all technology and computer functions, including the installation, configuration and management of all hardware and software for eight city facilities with more than 300 users, 250 personal computing devices, 30 servers, and an internal telephone and telecommunication system. The department also oversees the security of electronic data and computer hardware as well as provide direction in the research, development, and implementation of new or enhanced technology solutions.

# Legal

The city attorney is appointed by the City Council and provides general legal advice to city officials and staff, prepares and reviews ordinances, resolutions, contracts and legal agreements. The city attorney also represents the City of Temple Terrace in legal proceedings and coordinates the efforts of outside legal counsel.

# Legislative

The City Clerk is appointed by the City Council and is responsible for administering the legislative affairs of the City. As a charter position of the Legislative Branch of the City government, the City Clerk serves the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and all administrative departments,. He or she also acts as a historian for the community, and performs public services.



#### Leisure Services

#### Parks & Recreation

A division of Leisure Services, Parks & Recreation prides itself on maintaining the highest levels of service with regard to leisure-based programs and facilities. The approximately 75 full-time, part-time, and seasonal personnel of the department manage over 300 acres of land throughout the city, including two community recreation centers, three athletic complexes, three district parks, 16 neighborhood parks, three tennis facilities, five swimming pools and two nature preserves.

#### • Temple Terrace Public Library

The Temple Terrace Public Library originally was established in 1959 by the Temple Terrace Women's Club. It was eventually taken over by the City and a Library Board appointed, making the Library eligible to be part of the Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative. The goal of the Library is to meet the information and recreational needs of the residents of Temple Terrace and its surrounding environs by providing both print and non-print materials and engendering a lifelong love of reading and learning.

The Library also strives to broaden the horizons of its users, promote intellectual freedom and provide for an enhanced quality of life. Much more than just books, the Library offers a host of electronic and other resources, including access to eBooks, streaming movies, databases for education, homework assistance and job search.



#### **Police**

The Temple Terrace Police Department offers a full array of law enforcement and support services. These services include, but are not limited to, Uniform Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Marine Patrol, Canine Unit, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Crisis Negotiation, Crime Scene, Crime Prevention Services, Communications and Records.

The hallmark of the department's commitment to organizational excellence is demonstrated by the attainment of Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation in 2011. The achievement of accreditation status is truly a landmark accomplishment in the department's history and vividly represents their commitment to providing the highest quality law enforcement services possible.

#### **Public Works**

# **Operations & Maintenance**

- Sanitation & Recycling
- Fleet Management 0
- Grounds Maintenance o
- Special waste pickup service 0
- Ground-level roadway tree trimming 0



#### **Utilities**

- Potable (drinking) water supply o
- Sanitary and potable water line o construction and maintenance
- Sanitary (wastewater) sewer collection o
- Public roadway paving o
- Public roadway pothole repair o
- Roadway construction and maintenance o
- Elevated roadway tree trimming 0
- Stormwater (drainage) maintenance o
- Street sweeping 0
- Traffic sign repair, replacement 0 and maintenance
- Geographical Information System GIS) o



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